Educated unemployed persons

2404. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of educated unemployed persons registered with the Employment Exchanges in Delhi;

(b) the number of job seekers who come out of different universities and colleges every year in Delhi;

(c) whether Government have formulated any fresh scheme to provide employment opportunities to them; and

(d) if so, the broad outline thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The total number of educated (matric & above) job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in Delhi as on 30.6.98 was 7.86 lakh. During 1997 a total number of 82,900 job-seekers educated mostly from University & Colleges in Delhi registered themselves with the Employment Exchanges.

(c) and (d) The strategy of the Ninth Plan envisages adoption of technologies which are labour intensive, which are simple, cost effective and easily adaptable in regions characterised by high rate of unemployment and underemployment, improvement in the quality of employment with special thrust on prductivity. Recognising the high incidence of underemployment and increasing casualisation of labour, the Ninth Plan willl also implement a National Employment Assurance Scheme.

For educated unemployed in urban areas including Delhi, special employment programmes for self-employment like Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Swarana Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) are being implemented.

Welfare measures for agricultural workers

2405. SHRI A. VIJAY RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the existing welfare measures to assist the agricultural labourers;

(b) the States which introduced separate agricultural labour Acts;

(c) whether Government will introduce any such bill to safeguard the interests of the agricultural labourers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Government are implementing a number of poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme, (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awas Yojna (IAY), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc., which are designed especially to benefit rural poor including agricultural labourers.

(b) Kerala and Tripura.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposed Bill provides for regulations of employment and working conditions of agricultural workers and certain welfare measures to them.

Women workers in fish processing industry

2406. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the total number of women workers in the fish processing industry;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the managements are not keeping any record of the contract workers in these industries; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to consider the welfare of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) According to 1991 Census, 20839 women workers (including marginal workers) are engaged in the processing, canning and preserving of fish, crustacea and similar foods.

(b) and (c) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for various welfare and health measures for such workers. Cases of violation of the provisions of above Act and Rules are dealt with suitably by the appropriate Governments.

Additionally, the Marine Products Export Development Authority also assist the seafood processors to upgrade their facilities to achieve equivalency with the European and US standards, by which the workers get better facilities in the processing plants.

Rehabilitation of Child Labour

2407. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are not submitting/furnishing the status reports on the Project meant for rehabilitation of child labour;

(b) whether monitoring is being conducted by the Ministry;

(c) whether Government have reminded any allegations regarding non-implementation of the programmes in Sambhalpur District, Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The child labour projects have been furnishing progress reports periodically, for the purpose of monitoring of the project activities. Apart from this, periodical reviews by the Central and State Government are being carried out to assess the progress in the rehabilitation programme.

(c) and (d) Some shortcomings like reported delay in the payment of stipend and lack of provision of mid day meal in the schools run under National Child Labour Project, Sambalpur, Orissa have been brought to the notice of Government. The State Government of Orissa has already been addressed on this regard.

Proposal to amend the Labour Laws

2408. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to amend various labour laws in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments concerned, Ministries of the Central Government and specialised institutes and organisations will be taken in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) Review and updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendments/ fresh legislation are made depending on the result of the review. A number of labour laws have been enacted from time to time to address various aspects of labour encompassing a vast span of subjects which include Freedom of Association and Trade Unions Rights, Conditions of work, Minimum Wages, Social Security, Labour relations, migrant workers, employment of children etc.

There is always a need to review comprehensively the labour laws so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic and social policies and also to provide for greater welfare of the workers. The views of related Ministries and other concerned are considered before